



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Find Your Park! **Jewel Cave Celebrates the 99th Birthday of the National Park Service**

Jewel Cave National Monument, SD - The National Park Service (NPS) is turning 99 years old on August 25, 2015, and everyone is getting a present, some special programs and free admission! To inspire visitors, the NPS and National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, have created a birthday list of 99 Ways to Find Your Park, which can be found at www.FindYourPark.com. However, you may not have to travel too far, as local park sites are also celebrating with their own special events.

On Saturday, August 22, Jewel Cave is hosting a special Junior Ranger Day from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., entitled **Explore the World of Bats**. The special program is geared for kids ages 3-12; all participants are required to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. The program will begin at the front patio of the visitor center. Reservations are not required. Youth participants will receive a 2015 Junior Ranger Badge and certificate.

The special program focuses on bats and some of their unique characteristics. Participants will learn about the species of bats that inhabit the Monument, as well as take part in some lively hands-on activities. Families are encouraged to also use the day to complete the ever-popular Junior Ranger Program. Children ages five to twelve qualify for the activity booklet. Kids ages three to four can work on the Pee Wee Ranger booklet. Both booklets can be obtained from a park ranger at the visitor center.

On Tuesday, August 25, the Monument will be offering guided cave tours free of charge. All regularly scheduled tours will be free and available on a first come first serve basis. On this date, the visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Scenic Tours are offered about every 20 minutes, with the first one departing at 9:20 a.m. and the last at 3:40 p.m. Historic Lantern Tours are available at 9:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. The 20-minute Discovery Talks are available at 9:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 4:25 p.m.

The National Park Service waived all of its entrance fees on nine days this year. The remaining fee free days are August 25 for the National Park Service's birthday, September 26 for National Public Lands Day, and November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. Acting Superintendent Donald Hart states, "The Find Your Park campaign has blossomed into an exciting way to engage visitors with their favorite public lands. To complement the national effort, the Monument is gearing up for one of its final summer special events and is inviting everyone to discover their own unique connections to parks and their programs."

To find a national park near you and to learn more about the Find Your Park campaign, visit www.FindYourPark.com. For specific information related to Jewel Cave, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 or visit online at www.nps.gov/jeca.

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Photo Caption – Jewel Cave offers a Junior Ranger Program for kids ages 5-12 and a Pee Wee Ranger Program for youngsters ages 3-4. NPS Photo

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 408 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.